laid with track renewal trains and portal cranes.

6. For monitoring of the track geometry and running characteristics of the track, sophisticated track recording cars, oscillograph cars and portable accelerometers are being progressively used.

7. Maintenance facilities for coaches and wagons have been modernised.

8. To prevent cases of cold breakage of axle, ROH Depots have been equipped with ultrasonic testing equipment for timely detection of cases of flaws developing in the axles.

9. Training facilities for drivers, guards and other staff connected with train operation have been modernised. Drivers are being trained on simulators.

10. Performance of the staff is constantly monitored. The staff whose knowledge of rules is found deficient are counselled and are sent for refresher training.

Admissions in Meerabai Polytechnic for Women

3294. SHRI K.M. KHAN: Will the Minsiter of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Meerabai Polytechnic for women in Delhi had invited applications for admission in various non-engineering courses in 1996;

(b) whether the admission format required the students to get their date of birth, name and place of qualifying examinations, etc. verified from Principals of the institution last attended;

(c) whether such a certificate is superfluous when original certificates are produced at the time of admission;

(d) whether such a certificate is not required in any course in Delhi and outside;

(c) whether Government propose to do away with such unnecessary requirement in future; and,

(f) if so, the details thereof, and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPTT. OF EDUCATION IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MUHI RAM SAIKIA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) No, Sir. Certificate from the Prinicpal is intended for verifying the authenticity of the documents since instances have come to notice about submission of forge documents during the previous year.

(d) Similar certificates are required to be produced for admission to a number of educational institutions in Delhi and outside.

(e) and (f) No, Sir.

Facilities to passengers and railway employees

3295. SHRI RAM NATH KOVIND: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Indian Railways provide some facilities to travelling passengers;

(b) if so, the details thereof, class-wise with formalities to be completed to avail of the same;

(c) whether the Indian Railways have also provided some facilities to its employees;

(d) if so, the details thereof, category-wise and formalities to be undertaken to avail of the same;

(e) whether the employees of Indian Railways can travel in any passenger train with their free passes;

(f) whether some reservation quota in all trains and in all classes has been provided to railway employees during their journey against free pass; and

(g) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ): (a) and (b) As a public utility organisation, it has been the constant endeavour of Indian Railways to provide and upgrade facilities to the travelling public. Since, Railways have a wide spread of clientele, it has provided facilities suited to the class and range of users from exclusive Rajdhani/Shatabdi trains to trains with totally unreserved classes, long distance superfast services to slow stopping trains catering to sectional needs, and suburban trains for daily commuters in big metropolises.

The facilities on board are also as per class of service, type of coaches etc. In Rajdhani/Shatabdi trains free supply of meals, mineral water, newspapers etc. is made to the passengers and whereas in Rajdhani trains bed rolls are supplied free of charge in all classes, in other trains bed rolls are supplied free in all 2nd AC coaches, In Bombay-Delhi Rajdhani train, facility for telephone on board is being tried out as a pilot project.

Some of other amenities/facilities provided in trains are:—

1. Cushioned berths in reserved coaches of all classes.

2. Light fittings including fans.

3. Luggage racks in Chair Car coaches.

4. Toilets with necessary fittings like mirrors & wash-basin etc. in all coaches.

5. Alarm chain for safety.

6. Travelling safaiwallas in nominated long distance trains.

7. Pantry car services in some long distance trains.

At all stations of Indian Railways, various basic facilities/amentities as per scale are provided like drinking water arrangements, waiting halls, booking offices etc. Over and above these other facilities like reservation, retiring rooms, cloak rooms, chiller plants/water coolers, refreshment rooms etc. are provided at important stations as per their requirement. Modern facilities like Computersied Reservation System, computerised unreserved booking through installation of Self Printing Ticket Machines, Computerised Passenger Information and Enquiry System, Inter-active Voice Response System are being introduced at larger scale to upgrade the quality of service to the travelling public and rail users. All bonafide passengers can avail all the above facilities/amenities either free or on payment of prescribed charges as per the extant instructions.

(c) and (d) Railway employees are provided facilities of privilege passes, Privilege Ticket Orders and Post Retirement Complimentary Passes as per their entitilement in terms of the Railway Servants (Pass) Rules.

(e) The Railway employees can travel in passengers trains on the authority of passes issued to them as per their entitlement.

(f) and (g) A few berths have been earmarked in Rajdhani and Shatabdi Express trains as Duty Pass Holders Quota to be utilised by the Railway staff travelling on duty and also on their privilege passes and post retirement complimentary passes. The reasons for earmarking the Duty Pass Holders Quota is to restrict the travel of Railway Employees in these trains.

Representation by Andhra Pradesh Government for increasing subsidy on Phosphatic Fertilizers

3296. SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Andhra Pradesh has represented for increasing subsidy on phosphatic fertilizers (DAP);

(b) if so, the details thereof; and